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Alex Jones Gloats About Bankruptcy Plot To Tie Up Sandy Hook Damages 'For Years'

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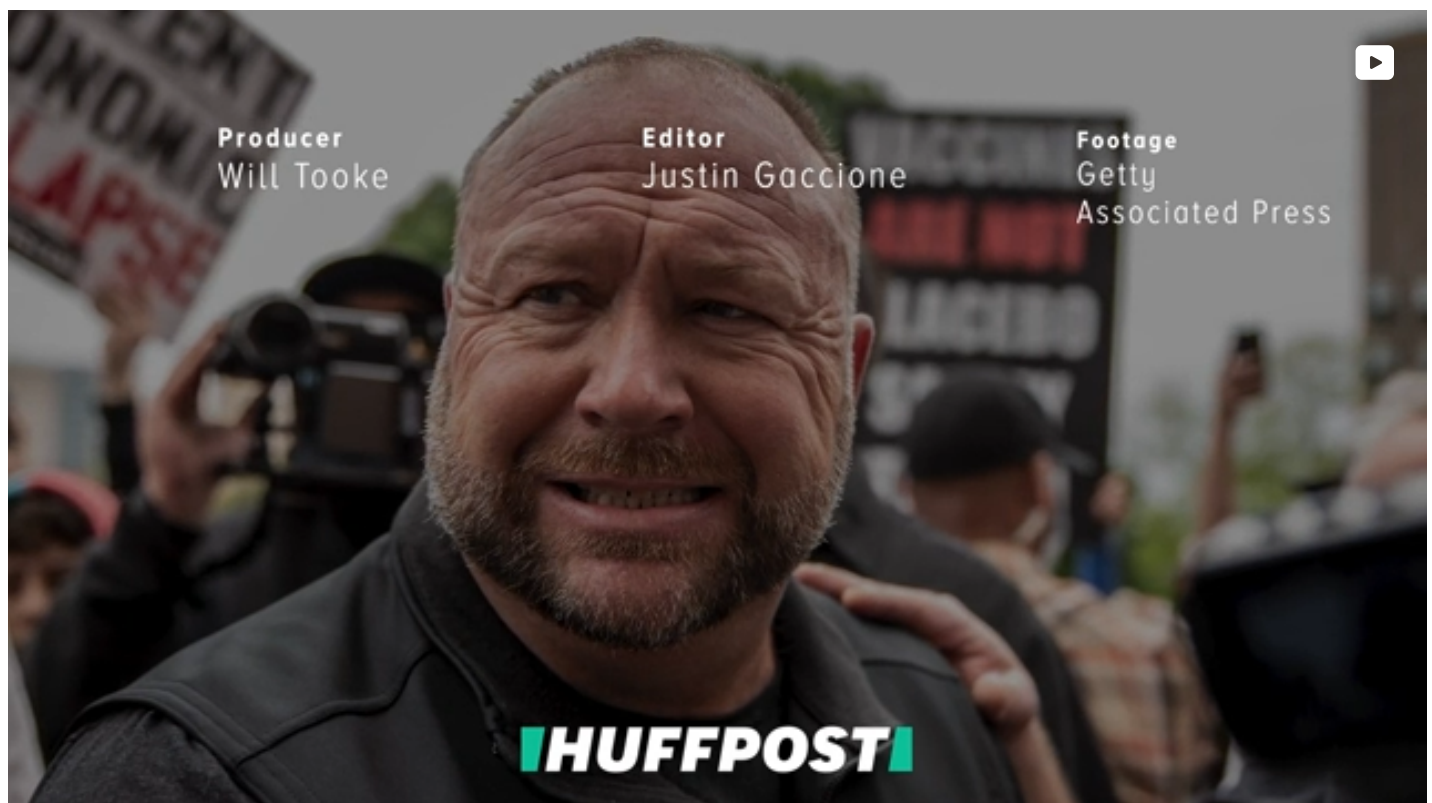


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Far-right conspiracy podcaster Alex Jones gloated on his program about how his latest bankruptcy scheme would slash defamation damages to Sandy Hook families and tie un

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Jones signed a Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection petition Friday to [shield the Infowars podcast parent company](#), Free Speech Systems LLC, his co-defendant in two defamation cases reportedly [raked in \\$65 million in revenue](#) last year.

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Jones was [found liable for defamation last year](#) in cases in Connecticut and Texas for repeatedly insisting that the 20 first-grade children killed in a mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012 in Newtown, Connecticut — and their devastated parents — were actors in a fake anti-gun stunt staged by the U.S. government. (Six adults were also killed.)

The trial in Texas, where Infowars is based, is currently being held to determine the amount of damages Jones must pay.

Jones attempted — [and was forced to drop](#) — a similar ploy earlier this year when he filed a bankruptcy case for Infowars and for trademark and web-domain rights holding companies in a bid to force a restrictive monetary settlement with the Sandy Hook families.

Jones [claimed on his podcast Sunday](#) that his current bankruptcy filing would slash the bond he'll have to post for an appeal to only half of his (declared) net worth— and then he still plans to tie whatever damages are decided within that reduced amount “for years” as his Infowars podcast continues to operate. He also claimed “we’ve never lied” and that “all we have is our credibility.”

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Alex Jones says he filed for bankruptcy so his appeal bond on the Sandy Hook judgment will now only be half his net worth, allowing him to tie it up for years and stay on the air.

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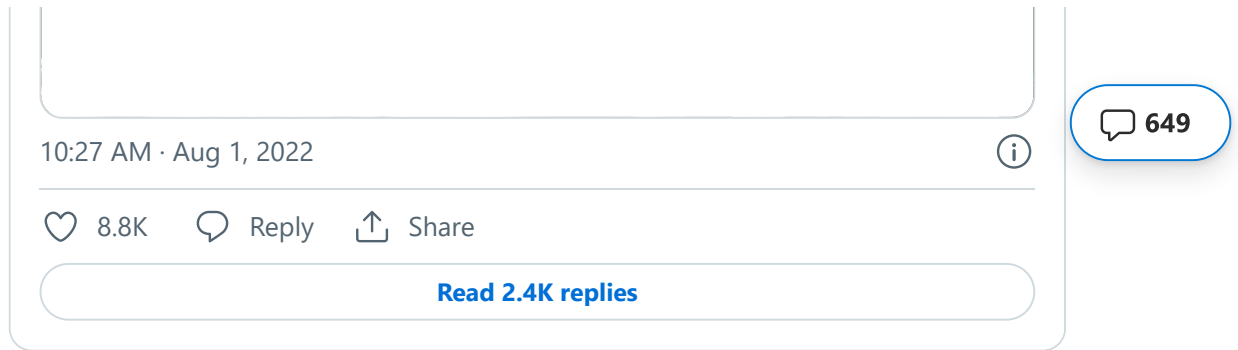
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Jones' money scheme was being played out [during dramatic testimony](#) over the pain and suffering of the Sandy Hook families, who not only grapple with the loss of their children in a mass shooting but also are forced to face harassment and death threats by Jones' unhinged supporters who are weaponized by his lies.

Parents of the dead children are suffering from both post-traumatic stress disorder and a [constant fear that Jones' followers will kill them](#), a psychiatrist testified Monday in Jones' Austin, Texas, defamation trial.

"The overwhelming cause of their pain is what Jones is doing," said Roy Lubit, a forensic psychiatrist hired by the plaintiffs.

Lubit pointed to the experience of [plaintiffs Neil Heslin and Scarlett Lewis](#), who lost their 6-year-old son, Jesse Lewis, in the massacre.

Heslin has been accosted on the street, and Lewis has installed surveillance equipment and sleeps with a gun, knife and pepper spray at her bedside.

Families are not backing off the fight, despite Jones' latest bankruptcy plot, said their lawyers.

Jones "has once again [fled like a coward to bankruptcy court](#) in a transparent attempt to delay facing the families that he has spent years hurting," Connecticut lawyer Chris Matei said in a statement.

But lawyers raised concerns in court Monday at a hearing over the bankruptcy filing about the structure of Jones' latest move — and his timing.

Free Speech Systems is seeking a special kind of bankruptcy protection that [allows small businesses to speed through insolvency](#), Bloomberg reported. It's generally aimed at companies that owe less than \$7.5 million. The Infowars parent is claiming more than \$50 million of debt — much of it owed to [PQPR Holdings, which is owned by Alex Jones](#), according to yet another lawsuit against Jones.

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fraudulent transfer lawsuit against Jones and Infowars in Texas, said at the Chapter 11 hearing. [“This is hardly a small business.”](#)

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Alinor Sterling, an attorney representing Sandy Hook families in one of the defamation suits, expressed “serious concerns” at the hearing “based on discovery done in Connecticut that Alex Jones has been systematically siphoning large amounts of money out of Free Speech Systems.”

In the bankruptcy filing, Free Speech Systems listed \$14.3 million in assets, including almost \$1.16 million in cash and close to \$1.6 million in property and equipment as of May 31, [The Associated Press](#) reported. It also claimed \$79 million in liabilities, with a \$54 million debt owed to PQPR Holdings.

Besides the sizable annual Infowars revenue, Jones has been the beneficiary of a secret cryptocurrency angel, who handed over about \$6 million worth of the coin in May for a total of [close to \\$8 million worth of cryptocurrency](#) in under a month, the Southern Poverty Law Center has reported.

Jones will next face a Connecticut jury in September to determine damages in that case. Jury selection began this week.

Jones, who is linked to extremist groups behind the storming of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, is also the [focus of investigators for his role](#) in planning events preceding the violence.

This article originally appeared on [HuffPost](#) and has been updated.



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AUSTIN, TX - APRIL 18: Infowars founder Alex Jones speaks into a bullhorn at the Texas State Capital building on April 18, 2020 in Austin, Texas. The protest was organized by Infowars host Owen Shroyer who is joining other protesters across the country in taking to the streets to call for the country to be opened up despite the risk of the COVID-19. (Photo by Sergio Flores/Getty Images)

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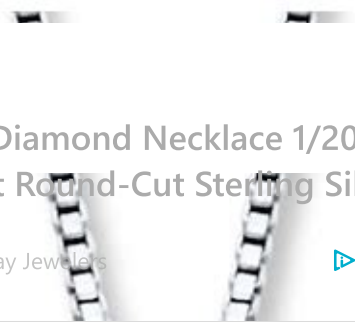
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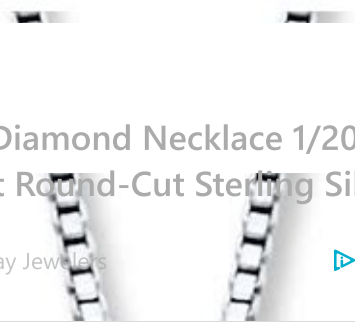
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Brent Schrotenboer, USA TODAY - 10h ago



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Judge Sue L. Robinson issued her decision against Deshaun Watson Monday with a written ruling that mentions a certain piece of evidence nine times in 16 pages.

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It's [about his towel habit](#).

The Cleveland Browns quarterback liked to use a towel to drape himself in massage sessions instead of a larger sheet and sometimes even brought his own small or medium towel, according to court records.

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Why does this matter?

Robinson, the NFL's independent disciplinary officer, [handed down a six-game suspension against Watson Monday](#) after he was sued by 24 women who accused him of sexual misconduct in massage sessions in 2020 and early 2021. Her ruling noted the towel evidence nine times, helping her conclude that Watson had a "sexual purpose" in these encounters.

Professional massage therapists typically provide larger sheets to drape clients as a way to avoid unwanted exposure of their clients' private parts. In these cases, the women generally said Watson exposed his genitals to them in

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made easier by his insistence on using a smaller towel instead of a sheet, according to Robinson's ruling.

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